(b) and (c) No such complaints have been received by the Government.

Operation of Airport at Lakhimpurkhiri District in U.P.

†1908. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that an aerodrome is in existence for over the last ten years at Palia Kalan near Lakhimpurkhiri district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making the same operational whereas the aerodrome is situated near the Dudhwa National Park and bear importance in view of tourism; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to make the same operational and by when it is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Palia Kalan airstrip in district Lakhimpurkhiri belongs to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. It is in existence for last eight years and State Government is operating their aircraft upto 5700 kg weight for day flights only. Airports Authority of India at present have no plan to make it operational for bigger aircraft.

Installation of Automated Baggage Reconciliation System

1909. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to instal Automated Baggage Reconciliation System at Indira Gandhi International Airport to reduce the incidents of loss of baggage;

(b) the details thereof and by when it will be installed; and

(c) by when the system will be installed in other International Airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines, who has been designated as the single agency for x-ray screening of the registered

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

baggages of international passengers of all the airlines, is in the process of establishing Automatic Baggage Reconciliation System (BRS) at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to introduce BRS as an integral part of Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE) system at other international airports. It is estimated that the plan would be achieved within one year at Mumbai airport and within one and half a year at other major Non-Metro airports.

Handing over of Rajkot Airport to AAI

1910. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with the Airports Authority of India and handed over Raikot Airport to AAI for further development and operation;

(b) if so, the likely time of its completion;

(c) by when it is going to be operated; and

(d) whether any plan for expansion of the runway has been finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The Airport at Rajkot belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) AAI has plans for extension of the runway at Rajkot airport upto 7500 feet to make it suitable for operation of A-320 type of aircraft. Matter has been taken up with the State Government and Railway authorities for early release of 35 acres of Railway land required for the purpose. AAI has also planned construction of a new terminal building alongwith, apron, taxiway and new fire station of higher category.